

**From:** Chris Best  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
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**Subject:** Antitrust Settlement

I must say, with all due respect, that the settlement in its current form is a joke. In it are no penalties for Microsoft's previous behavior, and no real method for preventing any future illegal actions.

The settlement is full of loopholes easily exploitable by Microsoft's legal department. An excellent example is the provision that allows Microsoft to offer versions of Windows with their integrated software at a discounted rate. The settlement is supposed to ban them from charging extra for copies of Windows lacking the integrated components (an excellent idea), but by allowing them to discount versions of Windows carrying the extra components, they can effectively accomplish the same goal of denying competitors entry into the market. They can simply market Windows with integration at a significantly lower cost!

After reading over the language of the proposed settlement, I am made to wonder whether this is truly a settlement that was reached between the DOJ and Microsoft, or if Microsoft simply wrote a settlement and the DOJ agreed to it.

The break-up order should be upheld. That is the only way to allow fair competition in the software industry.

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"Only two things are infinite: the universe  
and human stupidity, and I'm not so sure  
about the former." -Albert Einstein